



NEWS RELEASE

EL PASO BORDER PATROL SECTOR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS, EL PASO SECTOR, SEIZE 3,360 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA

Separate Seizures in the El Paso Sector Net 3,360 Pounds of Marijuana worth \$2,688,000.

Border Patrol agents from the El Paso sector made several seizures of marijuana during the week. The two largest seizures were made in Ft. Hancock where agents seized loads of 1205 pounds and 1146 pounds.

In Fort Hancock agents picked up a trail of suspected undocumented immigrants east of the Fort Hancock Port of Entry that lead them to a site where they found 21 burlap sacks that had been abandoned by drug smugglers. The contraband weighted in at 1205 pounds.

In another seizure in Fort Hancock, agents were alerted to activity east of the Fort Hancock Port of Entry. Agents responded to the area of the activity and noticed several sets of horse prints in the area. Agents followed the horse trail and, upon reaching the area where the sets of horse prints ended, discovered two subjects loading burlap sacks into a 1989 blue Ford Bronco. The agents arrested the two subjects that were responsible for loading and transporting the load of marijuana. Two horses that were used to transport the load were found in the area and were seized along with the marijuana load that weighted in at 1146 pounds.

Other seizures in the El Paso Sector:

- ◆ Las Cruces Border Patrol Agents seized 361 pounds of marijuana with a value of \$288,800.
- ◆ Lordsburg Agents seized 289 pounds of marijuana with a value of \$231,200.
- ◆ Alamogordo Agents seized 251 pounds of marijuana worth \$200,800. In one of the seizures agents were alerted by the K-9 unit of contraband being transported in steel boxes in the vehicles' tires.
- ◆ Fabens Agents seized 108 pounds of marijuana with a value of \$86,400.

The number seizures for fiscal year 2001 to date is 1,255 seizures with a value of over \$135 million.

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